Amendments to the Claims:

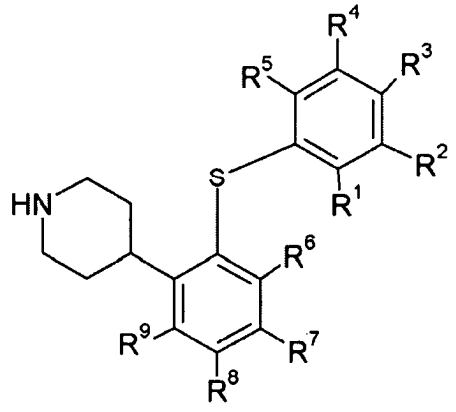
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-37. (Cancelled)

Claim 38. (Currently amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:
4-[2-(2-Fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine;
4-[2-(4-Chloro-2-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine;
4-[2-(3-Chloro-2-fluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine;
4-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-methyl-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine;
4-[2-(2-Fluoro-4-methoxy-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine;
4-[2-(2,4-Difluoro-phenylsulfanyl)-6-fluoro-phenyl]-piperidine;
and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~salts of any of the foregoing compounds~~.

Claim 39. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound ~~of claim 17,~~ of formula I:



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wherein;

R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{1-6}-alkyloxy, C_{2-6}-alkenyloxy, C_{2-6}-alkynyloxy, C_{1-6}-alkylsulfanyl, C_{2-6}-alkenylsulfanyl, C_{2-6}-alkynylsulfanyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-C_{1-6}-alkyl, hydroxy-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, hydroxy-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, halo-C_{1-6}-alkyl, halo-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halo-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, halo-C_{1-6}-alkyloxy, halo-C_{2-6}-alkenyloxy, halo-C_{2-6}-alkynyloxy, or NR^xR^y, wherein R^x and R^y are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, cyano-C_{1-6}-alkyl, cyano-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, cyano-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, or NR^zR^w-C_{1-6}-alkyl, NR^zR^w-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, NR^zR^w-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, wherein R^z and R^w are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl, or C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl; or R^x and R^y together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 3-7-membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom;

R^5 is halogen;

R^6, R^7, and R^8 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{1-6}-alkyloxy, C_{2-6}-alkenyloxy, C_{2-6}-alkynyloxy, C_{1-6}-alkylsulfanyl, C_{2-6}-alkenylsulfanyl, C_{2-6}-alkynylsulfanyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-C_{1-6}-alkyl, hydroxy-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, hydroxy-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, halo-C_{1-6}-alkyl, halo-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halo-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, halo-C_{1-6}-alkyloxy, halo-C_{2-6}-alkenyloxy, halo-C_{2-6}-alkynyloxy, or NR^xR^y, wherein R^x and R^y are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-

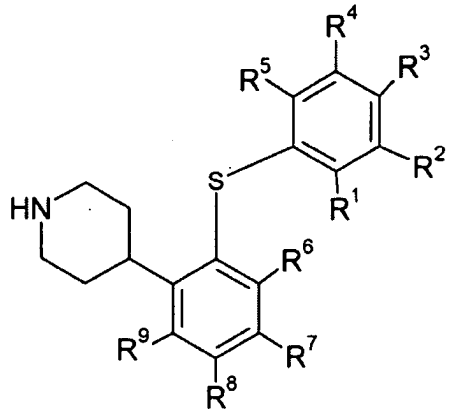
alkynyl, cyano-C_{1-6}-alkyl, cyano-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, cyano-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, or NR^zR^w-C_{1-6}-alkyl, NR^zR^w-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, NR^zR^w-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, wherein R^z and R^w are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl; or R^x and R^y together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 3-7-membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom;

R^9 is halogen;

provided that at least one of R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^6, R^7 and R^8 is different from hydrogen; also provided that when R^3 is methyl, then at least one of R^1, R^2, R^4, R^6, $R^7$and R^8 is different from hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~acid addition~~ salt thereof and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 40. (Currently amended) A method of treating an affective disorder in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of claim 17~~ of formula I:



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wherein;

R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{1-6}-alkyloxy, C_{2-6}-alkenyloxy, C_{2-6}-alkynyloxy, C_{1-6}-alkylsulfanyl, C_{2-6}-alkenylsulfanyl, C_{2-6}-alkynylsulfanyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-C_{1-6}-alkyl, hydroxy-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, hydroxy-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, halo-C_{1-6}-alkyl, halo-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halo-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, halo-C_{1-6}-alkyloxy, halo-C_{2-6}-alkenyloxy, halo-C_{2-6}-alkynyloxy, or NR^xR^y, wherein R^x and R^y are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, cyano-C_{1-6}-alkyl, cyano-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, cyano-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, or NR^zR^w-C_{1-6}-alkyl, NR^zR^w-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, NR^zR^w-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, wherein R^z and R^w are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl, or C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl; or R^x and R^y together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 3-7-membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom;

R^5 is halogen;

R^6, R^7, and R^8 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{1-6}-alkyloxy, C_{2-6}-alkenyloxy, C_{2-6}-alkynyloxy, C_{1-6}-alkylsulfanyl, C_{2-6}-alkenylsulfanyl, C_{2-6}-alkynylsulfanyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-C_{1-6}-alkyl, hydroxy-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, hydroxy-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, halo-C_{1-6}-alkyl, halo-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halo-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, halo-C_{1-6}-alkyloxy, halo-C_{2-6}-alkenyloxy, halo-C_{2-6}-alkynyloxy, or NR^xR^y, wherein R^x and R^y are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, cyano-C_{1-6}-alkyl, cyano-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, cyano-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, or NR^zR^w-C_{1-6}-alkyl, NR^zR^w-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, NR^zR^w-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, wherein R^z and R^w are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl; or R^x and R^y together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 3-7-membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom;

R^9 is halogen;

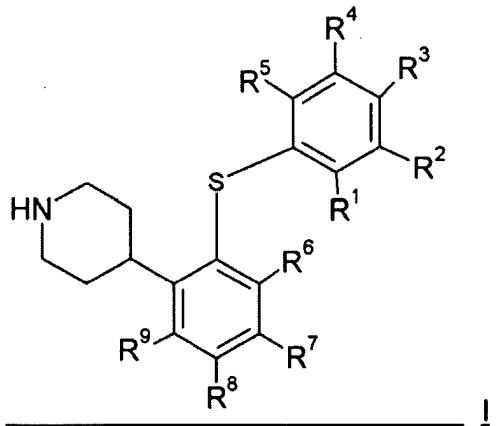
provided that at least one of R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^6, R^7 and R^8 is different from hydrogen; also provided that when R^3 is methyl, then at least one of R^1, R^2, R^4, R^6, $R^7$and R^8 is different from hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~acid addition~~ salt thereof to said patient~~, to treat said affective disorder~~.

Claim 41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said affective disorder is depression.

Claim 42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said patient is a human.

Claim 43. (Currently amended) A method of treating an anxiety disorder in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound ~~of claim 17~~ of formula I:



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wherein;

R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{1-6}-alkyloxy, C_{2-6}-alkenyloxy, C_{2-6}-alkynyloxy, C_{1-6}-alkylsulfanyl, C_{2-6}-alkenylsulfanyl, C_{2-6}-alkynylsulfanyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-C_{1-6}-alkyl, hydroxy-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, hydroxy-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, halo-C_{1-6}-alkyl, halo-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halo-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, halo-C_{1-6}-alkyloxy, halo-C_{2-6}-alkenyloxy, halo-C_{2-6}-alkynyloxy, or NR^xR^y, wherein R^x and R^y are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, cyano-C_{1-6}-alkyl, cyano-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, cyano-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-

alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, or NR^zR^w-C_{1-6}-alkyl, NR^zR^w-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, NR^zR^w-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, wherein R^z and R^w are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl, or C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl; or R^x and R^y together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 3-7-membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom;

R^5 is halogen;

R^6, R^7, and R^8 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{1-6}-alkyloxy, C_{2-6}-alkenyloxy, C_{2-6}-alkynyloxy, C_{1-6}-alkylsulfanyl, C_{2-6}-alkenylsulfanyl, C_{2-6}-alkynylsulfanyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-C_{1-6}-alkyl, hydroxy-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, hydroxy-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, halo-C_{1-6}-alkyl, halo-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, halo-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, halo-C_{1-6}-alkyloxy, halo-C_{2-6}-alkenyloxy, halo-C_{2-6}-alkynyloxy, or NR^xR^y, wherein R^x and R^y are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, cyano-C_{1-6}-alkyl, cyano-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, cyano-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, or NR^zR^w-C_{1-6}-alkyl, NR^zR^w-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, NR^zR^w-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, wherein R^z and R^w are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkenyl, C_{3-8}-cycloalkenyl-C_{2-6}-alkynyl; or R^x and R^y together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a 3-7-membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom;

R^9 is halogen;

provided that at least one of R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^6, R^7 and R^8 is different from hydrogen; also provided that when R^3 is methyl, then at least one of R^1, R^2, R^4, R^6, $R^7$and R^8 is different from hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~acid addition~~ salt thereof to said patient~~, to treat said anxiety disorder~~.

Claim 44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said anxiety disorder is selected from the group consisting of general anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, post traumatic stress disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, panic disorder, panic attacks, specific phobias, social phobia and agoraphobia.

Claim 45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said patient is a human.

Claim 46. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 38 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~acid addition~~ salt thereof and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 47. (Currently amended) A method of treating an affective disorder in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 38 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~acid addition~~ salt thereof to said patient~~, to treat said affective disorder~~.

Claim 48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said affective disorder is depression.

Claim 49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said patient is a human.

Claim 50. (Currently amended) A method of treating an anxiety disorder in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 38 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~acid addition~~ salt thereof to said patient~~, to treat said anxiety disorder~~.

Claim 51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein said anxiety disorder is selected from the group consisting of general anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, post traumatic stress disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, panic disorder, panic attacks, specific phobias, social phobia and agoraphobia.

Claim 52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, wherein said patient is a human.